



## H.Res. 1322 – Commending the firefighters from California and throughout the United States for their courageous actions and sacrifices in fighting the California wildfires

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1322 being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Sam Farr (D-CA) on July 8, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1322 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 9, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.Res. 1322 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Commends firefighters from California and throughout the United States for their courageous actions and sacrifices in fighting wildfires on National Forest System land and other public lands in California;
- Acknowledges the continued work of firefighters to protect National Forest System land, other public lands, and private property from further damage;
- Praises the people of California for their great courage in this time of crisis; and
- Extends its heartfelt sympathies to the families of those who have lost loved ones or their homes, businesses, or other property in the wildfires.

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### BACKGROUND

As of July 8, 2008 there were 323 wildfires burning across the State of California. The fires are continuing to burn portions of the National Forest System in California. Forty homes and one business are known to have been destroyed by the wildfires. These fires were caused by natural causes, including lightning, or possibly by human activity. Over 18,000 personnel have been committed to fighting the wildfires in California. The efforts of these firefighters have helped to suppress over 1,400 fires since June, 2008. Several firefighters have been injured in this effort and one firefighter has died.

Wildfires are an important, and usually natural, ecological process which is vital for the productivity of ecosystems in North America. However, the incidence of wildfires has increased in recent years, and due to population and infrastructure growth in the West, the effect of the fires on humans is becoming more severe.

The National Interagency Fire Center based in Boise, Idaho, coordinates Federal fire suppression efforts and draws on the resources of several agencies including the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the National Weather Service.

[The National Interagency Fire Center](#)

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at (202) 226-2302.